APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,562	01/21/2004	Thomas Boyland	018381.0004	3445

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS,
WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>10 May 2010</u>.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.　　2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-3,5-18 and 20-35</u> is/are pending in the application.
　　4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-3, 5-18, and 20-35</u> is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
　　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
　　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
　　a)☐ All　b)☐ Some *　c)☐ None of:
　　　1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
　　　2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
　　　3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
　　　　　application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
　　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is a non-final action in response to applicant's Request for Continued

Examination (RCE) filed on 5/10/2010, wherein claims 1, 16, 31, and 32 have been

amended; claims 1-3, 5-18, and 20-35 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-3, 5-18 and 20-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Weber (US 2003/0093346), in view of Hamilton et al. (US 7353230),

hereinafter referred to as Hamilton.

4.   Regarding **Claims 1 and 16**:

        Weber discloses a system and a computer-implemented method for facilitating

the processing and management of applicants, comprising:

        a processor and computer readable medium storage having stored thereon a

routine set of instructions which when executed, by a computer machine (See Figure 1)

cause the computer machine to perform the steps of providing:

        a first client device having an applicant component enabling at least one member

of a first user type from the first client device to submit primary application-related

information, said information including at least applicant identification information ([Para.

0024, "A first exemplary step corresponds to a step of generating a personalized

identification element for a user to the online financial aid system. This personal

identification element is preferably then inputted to the on-line system for gaining

access to selected features and services thereof. Another step in such an exemplary

method corresponds to obtaining requested demographic, financial, and education

related data from a user and then relaying this information to a financial aid processor"];

[Para. 0052, "the subject VFAO system requests information about a student, and so it

may hereafter be referred to as a first information collection application"]);

a management component for receiving and storing said primary application-

related information, said management component including a personalization

component for creating and personalizing secondary application-related information

based on said primary application-related information ([Abstract]; [Para. 0023, "the web-

based communications network is utilized for automatically administering a controlled

relationship among students, educational institutions, and student financial aid

processors and for providing the aforementioned selectable services that relate to

financial aid application and administration"];

a communications component for providing said secondary application-related

information to said at least one first user type member ([Para. 0021, "Various personal

and financial information is requested and collected via the information collection

service. This information is then preferably used to generate a predicted amount of

monetary aid potentially available to a user for a student's education-related expenses"];

[0022, "Yet another exemplary embodiment of the present subject matter relates to a web-based communication network comprising a financial aid estimation service"]).

Additionally, Weber discloses communication tools for interacting with other system users: ([Para. 0015, "Automated communication tools are preferably available such that users can contact and relay questions or information among other system users"]; [Para. 0050, "Other exemplary services and features of a virtual financial aid office and system are displayed in FIG. 2. One exemplary such feature is an SFAPC electronic messenger (e-messenger)"]; and also a process of preliminary review of applicants: [Para. 0041, "Once all required information for a student's file is received, the student financial aid processing center begins an extensive and particular process of reviewing a student's file. Preliminary review establishes verification of required documents, and quality control assures that established criteria are met for each reviewed student"]).

But, Weber fails to disclose a management component allowing a second user type to establish, prior to receiving primary application-related information, at least one member of a second user type for evaluation purposes.

However, Hamilton teaches:

the management component further including programming for allowing a second user type to establish, prior to receiving primary application-related information, at least one member of a second user type for evaluating application-related information for a defined category of first user types; and a communications component for communicating primary application-related information to the at least one pre-

established member of a second user type via a second client device ("a lead individual

assembles a team of reviewers and selects the case summaries to be reviewed in the

review session. The lead can provide each user with a unique identifier (ID) and assigns

to each reviewer a subset of the case summaries to be reviewed" [col. 7, line 7]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the

time of the invention, to have modified the system and method of Weber so as to have

included user access allowance functionality, as taught by Hamilton, in order to provide

for efficient evaluation access rights to secondary user/reviewers, since so doing could

be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art.

5.   Regarding **Claims 2 and 17**:

Weber discloses a system and method wherein said primary application-related

information includes at least one of: online application, transcript, recommendation

document, report card, photograph, video clip, audio clip (Abstract, lines 16-19).

6   Regarding **Claims 3 and 18**:

Weber discloses a system and method wherein said secondary application-

related information includes an application status or a notification ([Para. 0050, lines 13-

16]; [Claim 10]).

7.   Regarding **Claims 5 and 20**:

Weber discloses a system and method wherein said second user type member is pre-determined (and established) according to an age or education level associated with said first user type member (Para. 0023, lines 8-11).

8.   Regarding **Claims 6 and 21**:

Weber discloses a system and method wherein said personalization component includes a forms management component enabling said at least one second user type member to generate secondary application-related information in the form of at least one of: a confirmation letter, a reminder letter, a status letter (Claim 53).

9.   Regarding **Claims 7 and 22**:

Weber discloses a system and method wherein said management component can receive said primary application-related information in a plurality of electronic file types ([Para. 0057, lines 13-16]; [Claim 31]).

10.   Regarding **Claims 8 and 23**:

Weber discloses a system and method wherein said management component includes a content management component for receiving, viewing, editing, deleting, organizing, describing and searching content related to said application ([Abstract]; [Para. 0023, lines 1-6]).

11.   Regarding **Claims 9 and 24**:

Weber discloses a system and method wherein said management component
enables at least one member of a second user type from a second client device to
evaluate said primary application-related information (Para. 0016, lines 1-5).

12.   Regarding **Claims 10 and 25**:
Weber discloses a system and method wherein said applicant, management and
communications components can be customized by said at least one second user type
member (Abstract, lines 19-21).

13.   Regarding **Claims 11 and 26**:
Weber discloses a system and method wherein said management component
enables said at least one second user type member to post notes to said primary
application-related information, said notes being stored by said management
component in connection with said primary application-related information ([Claim 10];
[Para. 0068, lines 14-17]).

14.   Regarding **Claims 12 and 27**:
Weber discloses a system and method wherein said stored notes are
communicated to a wireless device in communication with said management
component (Para. 0042 , lines 8-11).

15.   Regarding **Claims 13 and 28**:

Weber discloses a system and method wherein said applicant component further
includes a status check component whereby said first user type member can request an
application status via said communications component (Para. 0050, lines 13-16).

16.   Regarding **Claims 14 and 29**:

Weber discloses a system and method further including an access control
component whereby said at least one second user type member can allow access to
manage content related to said application to at least one additional second user type
member ([Para. 0024, lines 5-10]; [Para. 0044, lines 1-4]).

17.   Regarding **Claims 15 and 30**:

Weber discloses a system and method further including an integration
component for integrating said applicant, management and communications
components with an offline admissions database ([Para. 0066, lines 33-35]; [Para.
0068, lines 3-7]).

18.   Regarding **Claim 31**:

Weber discloses an article of manufacture comprising a computer instruction
carrier, readable by a computer, tangibly embodying one or more instructions
executable by the computer to perform a method for facilitating the processing and
management of applicants ([Para. 65, lines 1-3]; [Abstract Figure
]; [Figure 1]),

the method comprising the steps of:

providing an applicant component enabling at least one member of a first user type from a first client device to submit primary application-related information, said information including at least applicant identification information ([Para. 0024, lines 5-10]; [Para. 0052, lines 12-15]);

providing a management component for receiving and storing said primary application-related information, said management component including a personalization component for creating and personalizing secondary application-related information based on said primary application-related information ([Abstract]; [Para. 0023, lines 1-6]; [Para. 0044, lines 21-24]);

providing a communications component for providing said secondary application-related information to said at least one first user type member ([Para. 0021, "Various personal and financial information is requested and collected via the information collection service. This information is then preferably used to generate a predicted amount of monetary aid potentially available to a user for a student's education-related expenses"]; [0022, "Yet another exemplary embodiment of the present subject matter relates to a web-based communication network comprising a financial aid estimation service"]).

Additionally, Weber discloses communication tools for interacting with other system users: ([Para. 0015, "Automated communication tools are preferably available such that users can contact and relay questions or information among other system users"]; [Para. 0050, "Other exemplary services and features of a virtual financial aid

office and system are displayed in FIG. 2. One exemplary such feature is an SFAPC

electronic messenger (e-messenger)"]; and also a process of preliminary review of

applicants: [Para. 0041, "Once all required information for a student's file is received,

the student financial aid processing center begins an extensive and particular process

of reviewing a student's file. Preliminary review establishes verification of required

documents, and quality control assures that established criteria are met for each

reviewed student"]).

But, Weber fails to disclose a management component allowing a second user

type to establish, prior to receiving primary application-related information, at least one

member of a second user type for evaluation purposes.

However, Hamilton teaches:

the management component further including programming for allowing a

second user type to establish, prior to receiving primary application-related information,

at least one member of a second user type for evaluating application-related information

for a defined category of first user types; and a communications component for

communicating primary application-related information to the at least one pre-

established member of a second user type via a second client device ("a lead individual

assembles a team of reviewers and selects the case summaries to be reviewed in the

review session. The lead can provide each user with a unique identifier (ID) and assigns

to each reviewer a subset of the case summaries to be reviewed" [col. 7, line 7]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the

time of the invention, to have modified the system and method of Weber so as to have

included user access allowance functionality, as taught by Hamilton, in order to provide

for efficient evaluation access rights to secondary user/reviewers, since so doing could

be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither

undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

19.   Regarding **Claim 32**:

        Weber discloses a content processing and publication tool, comprising:

        a server for storing application-related content and programming for managing

said content for use in processing at least one application for admission ([Abstract, lines

1-7]; [Figure 1]);

        a first user interface in communication with said server for enabling at least one

member of a first user type from a first client device to submit an application for

admission ([Para. 0024, lines 5-10]; [Para. 0052, lines 12-15]);

        a management component in communication with said server for receiving and

storing said application ([Abstract]; [Para. 0023, lines 1-6]; [Para. 0044, lines 21-24]);

        for notifying at least one member of a second user type of said stored

application, and for populating secondary application-related information with first user

type information ([Para. 0050, lines 13-16]; [Claim 10]);

        a second user interface in communication with said server enabling said at least

one second user type member from a second client device to receive and view said

application for admission ([Abstract]; [Para. 0023, lines 1-6]);

submit notes for appending to and storing with said application for admission ([Claim 10]; [Para. 0068, lines 14-17]); and

for retrieving schedule information pertaining to at least one member of a first user type (Claim 31); and

a communications component for communicating secondary application-related information to said at least one first user type member ([Claim 10]; [Claim 31]).

Additionally, Weber discloses communication tools for interacting with other system users: ([Para. 0015, "Automated communication tools are preferably available such that users can contact and relay questions or information among other system users"]; [Para. 0050, "Other exemplary services and features of a virtual financial aid office and system are displayed in FIG. 2. One exemplary such feature is an SFAPC electronic messenger (e-messenger)"]; and also a process of preliminary review of applicants: [Para. 0041, "Once all required information for a student's file is received, the student financial aid processing center begins an extensive and particular process of reviewing a student's file. Preliminary review establishes verification of required documents, and quality control assures that established criteria are met for each reviewed student"]).

But, Weber fails to disclose a management component allowing a second user type to establish, prior to receiving primary application-related information, at least one member of a second user type for evaluation purposes.

However, Hamilton teaches:

wherein the management component further includes programming for allowing a second user type to establish, prior to receiving the application for admission, at least one member of a second user type for evaluating the application for a defined category of first user types ("a lead individual assembles a team of reviewers and selects the case summaries to be reviewed in the review session. The lead can provide each user with a unique identifier (ID) and assigns to each reviewer a subset of the case summaries to be reviewed" [col. 7, line 7]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system and method of Weber so as to have included user access allowance functionality, as taught by Hamilton, in order to provide for efficient evaluation access rights to secondary user/reviewers, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

20.   Regarding **Claim 33**:

Weber discloses system wherein said communications component communicates an evaluation status to said at least one first user type member upon receiving a request from said at least one first user type member via said first user interface ([Claim 10]; [Claim 31]).

21.   Regarding **Claim 34**:

Weber discloses a system wherein said communications component communicates an evaluation status to said at least one first user type member upon receiving said evaluation status from said second user type member via said second user interface ([Para. 0050, lines 13-16]; [Claim 10]; [Claim 31]).

22.   Regarding **Claim 35**:

Weber discloses a system further including a scheduling component for allowing said first or said second user type member to schedule an in-person meeting via a respective one of said user interfaces (Claim 10).

Response to Arguments

23.   Applicant's arguments filed 5/10/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

24.   Regarding the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-18 and 20-35 under the prior 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection:

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 5-18 and 20-35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Conclusion

25.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Plotkin, US 7620555 B1, discloses a process for computer implemented manuscript review. Day, US 7072940 B1, discloses a system and method for managing communications and collaboration among team members.

26.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fathi Abdelsalam whose telephone number is (571) 270-3517. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8:00-5:00pm ET.

27.   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janice Mooneyham can be reached on (571) 272-6805. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

28.   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/F. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 3689

/Tan Dean D. Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3689
5/20/10